



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie  
National Preserve

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## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

April 9, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
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### Preserve Gears Up for Bus Tour Season

Beginning April 26, 2008, visitors will again have the opportunity to enjoy the sweeping views and endless sky of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve from the air- conditioned comfort of the preserve's 28- passenger, wheelchair accessible tour bus.

During the 6.4- mile tour, park rangers will discuss the prairie's intricate system of plants and animals, the geology that formed the Flint Hills, American Indians, and the legacy of ranching. The tour is available daily from April 26 through October 26, 2008, at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and lasts approximately an hour and a half. The cost is \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for age 5- 18 years; there is no charge for children age 4 and under. A minimum of two passengers is required per bus trip. Advance reservations are recommended but arrangements can be made on the day of the visit if space is available.

From May through October, National Park Service staff also provide guided tours of the historic 1881 limestone ranch house. These tours are conducted hourly on the half- hour from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is no charge for the ranch house tour.

The Lower Fox Creek School, a one- room schoolhouse, is staffed by National Park Service volunteers and is open to the public on weekends during May and June, and again in September and October, from 12 noon until 4 p.m. Learn about the role the school played in the early days of education on the prairie. McGuffey Readers, slates, and a recitation bench are on display. Please call ahead to verify program availability.



Visitor information and a 10- minute site orientation video are available at the visitor contact station, located in the barn from May through October. The Park Education Resource Center bookstore, located in the ranch house, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A self- guiding tour of the historic ranch headquarters, aided by a brochure and wayside exhibits, is also available.

The Southwind Nature Trail begins at the ranch headquarters and winds through the tallgrass prairie. Visitors may choose to walk the 1  $\frac{3}{4}$ - mile loop or take a shorter stroll to the scenic overlook areas to experience the magnificent beauty of the Flint Hills. The wheelchair accessible Bottomland Trail is located two miles south of the historic ranch headquarters on Kansas State Highway 177. Visitors may choose from a  $\frac{3}{4}$ - mile loop or a shorter  $\frac{1}{2}$ - mile loop. The parking area and trail entrance for the Bottomland Trail are located on the gravel country road southeast of St. Anthony cemetery. The Southwind Nature Trail and the Bottomland Trail are open daily during daylight hours.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a public/private partnership with the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Kansas Park Trust. Located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway), the preserve's historic ranch headquarters is open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr), e- mail [tapr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_interpretation@nps.gov), or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494.

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